

## LEDs tucked into everything

*iMac has a nice small feature on its base where four LEDs indicate the battery state. In this tradition, Kensington (of mice and peripheral men) have emerged with the perfect WiFi Finder gadget ( \$29.99) which scans an area for a network within 200 feet indicating signal strength with three green LEDs. Engineers apparently came up with the idea after the frustration of not easily finding invisible WiFi hot spot networks. PC makers should integrate that into their designs. More information at Web: [www.kensington.com](http://www.kensington.com).*

## Fashion tucks 2

Another approach from the fashion industry has quite a different take on the problem, and would prefer to decorate your jersey or bag with many, many, more gaily coloured LEDs (and many, many more dollar price tag one suspects.) Web: <http://www.hotspotlist.com>

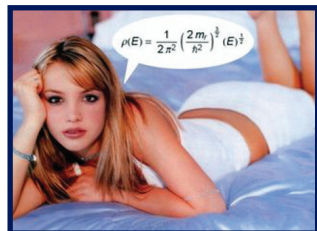
## To save or maybe girdle?

Sent in by a III V comic aficionado, the Compound Superman is clearly here to save the world (though not if he doesn't get his hitem sorted out!)

But, interestingly enough CS really sources from Hitachi and being Cable Superman is about to girdle the globe whether that constitutes saving it may be questionable.



## Hedy, & Britney compounded



In the process of girdling the internet in search of compound related websites, one of the more frivolous approaches and probably well known to most, is that of Britney's Guide to Semicon-ductor Physics authored back in 2000 or 2001 by Carl Hepburn, an Essex post-grad working for a PhD in GaN based devices who offered the physics of lasers and VCSELs and the distractions of Britney.

Actually the winning piece is probably the overlooked introduction, which features Hedy Lamarr and her concept for 'frequency hopping' for radio signals and torpedoes!

Hepburn's last locateable web piece is as a contributor to 'Hot electron light emission from GaInAsP/ InP structures with distributed Bragg reflectors' in April 2003.

Does anyone know if he's gone on to create more Sci-Tech Award winning websites or just vanished without trace into the compound morass? Web: <http://britneyspears.ac/lasers.htm>

## Does compound work in saunas?

Last year, Media Tampere Ltd in Finland designed a sauna with video-conferencing facilities.

Loud speakers and a microphone were to be placed inside the sauna, with the web camera and computer screen behind a window so the direction of the camera could be trimmed to the sauna users' wishes.

'In Finland overall and in the city of Tampere in particular the use of the internet (70 % of the population) and the sauna (100 %) is so regular a part of everyday life that the combination of those two phenomenon has not caused too big interest or much protest.'

Only the the Austrian Sauna Association has expressed their concern of the spoiled spirit of the original sauna.

But lack of a cheerful follow up and pictures of an incomplete sauna make one apprehensive that this is one compound facility that has bitten the steam.



*As well as comic cut fans, III Vs obviously has frisbee lovers and their dogs, both of whom like nothing better than something good to chew on.*

## Little Mo

Maxon Precision Motors offer a 'pancake' motor at 6mm diameter x 3.75-mm long, weighing in at 0.32g (0.01 oz). Being brushless it offers long life due to electronic commutation, with no mechanical brushes to wear out, and it sports a ruby bearing.

Performance features of the Thumbelina motor include maximum continuous torque output of 0.019mNm (0.003 oz-in.), maximum speed 20,000 rpm, and ambient temperature rating of -40 to 80°C (-40 to 176 °F) Size makes these motors suitable for optical, laser, & biomedical applications, as well as for test/measurement devices and miniature robotics. Control electronics complement the tiny motor.